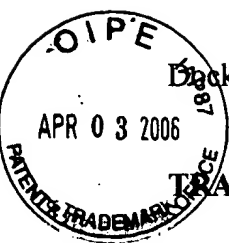


IFW 2178



Packet No. THOLAM P167US

**PATENT
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND**

TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re **PATENT**

Application of: : **Earl Alexander Culham**

Serial No. : **09/988,689**

Title : **Method of Linking Web Pages**

Filed : **November 20, 2001**

Art Unit : **2178**

Examiner : **Kyle R. Stork**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 30, 2006

Dear Kyle:

Thank you to Cesar Paula for a concise description of the changes required to make my submission compliant. All suggested corrections have been implimented. The following is a complete list of the claims annotated with their status and, where necessary, their markup.

CLAIMS

1-69. (cancelled)

70. (currently amended) A method of linking web pages, comprising the steps of:

associating at least one supplementary link with a primary web page, ~~the at least one supplementary link being normally hidden from the view of the user so as not to~~ such supplementary link lacks the features of the anchor which make a regular hypertext link visible, thus a supplementary link is normally hidden from view and does not disrupt the flow of text or graphics displayed on the web page;

~~providing a user initiated command by which the at least one supplementary link becomes visible and accessible to the user to enable the user to acces at least one secondary web page, the at least one supplementary link being independent of any menu accessible through links visible to the user on the primary web page.~~

providing information processing means by which the at least one supplementary link is transformed into a regular hypertext link.

71. (original) The method as defined in claim 70, at least one supplementary link being stored in a datastructure that is separate from the primary web page.

72. (original) The method as defined in claim 71, the datastructure being associated with the primary web page.